

Serial No.: 10/023,542
Examiner: Asghar H. Bilgrami

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 remain in this application, with claims 1, 10 and 14 being independent claims. Claims 10 and 14 have been amended.

In the outstanding official action, independent claims 1, 10 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapiro et al (US Publication 2002/0161917) and Nataraj et al (US Patent 6,757,779). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Regarding independent claim 1, neither Shapiro nor Nataraj, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination disclose, teach, or render obvious "a policy-based route determined in accordance with a dynamic routing protocol" (see claim 1). Regarding independent claims 10 and 14, neither Shapiro nor Nataraj, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination disclose, teach, or render obvious the step of "utilizing a policy-based route" (see claims 10 and 14). As such, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 2-9, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and therefore incorporate all the limitations of claim 1 therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable over the cited references, and request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 11-13, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 10, and therefore incorporate all the limitations of claim 10 therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 10, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable over the cited references, and request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 15-20, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 14, and therefore incorporate all the limitations of claim 14 therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 14, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are patentable over the cited references, and request that these rejections be withdrawn.

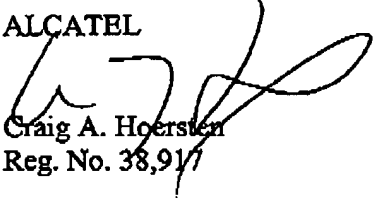
It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-20 as set forth in the Office Action, and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner

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have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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